



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

APRIL 12, 2026 † SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER/DIVINE MERCY

From The Pastor

How do we make the Resurrection of Jesus an effective and living reality in our lives? St. John's gospel today is an essential and transforming account that reveals the early experience of the first disciples. It is clearly intended to be a template for all believers who seek to actively follow Jesus in a living way.

The first disciples not only believed in Jesus, they also personally loved him and placed all their hope and trust in him. They believed and experienced the power of God in Jesus as they came to believe he was the Son of God. Their faith was built on lived experience. Then Jesus was put to death on a Cross.

The trauma these early disciples felt is hard to imagine. They are shattered, scattered, and lost to themselves. Yet, they stick together. They find return to the Upper Room. It was not the same mood or sentiment as three days before when they gathered for the Passover meal. Now they are locked in fear behind closed doors lost in stunned disbelief wondering if their fate would be that of Jesus. If there was ever a definition of post-traumatic stress, this would be it.

Notice how John, the gospel writer, frames the experience. John tells us it is the evening of the first day of the week. 'Evening' tells us the disciples are moving in a growing darkness of fear and doubt. 'The first day of the week' tells us it is the beginning of a new creation. John frames the before and after of the Resurrection. Before the Resurrection of Jesus, all humanity and the world was in darkness and fear uncertain of the meaning and direction of life with God. After the rising of Jesus, all things are made new. The world is the same as it struggles with the reality of sin and human incompleteness, but there is a new reality that has changed everything.

The Resurrection was/is an action of God. It is transcendent. It did not come from within the world, but from God who is beyond the world, who is now a part of every particle of creation. The experience in the Upper Room was an essential transformation for those present even as it serves as a model for the awakening of our faith.

Revealing his divine transcendence, Jesus appears through locked doors. The man whom they most loved and knew he was dead stood before them. His first words are disarming and warmly consoling: "Peace be with you." Those present are filled with joy. If only on the level of human emotion, consider

how they must have felt. Their fear relaxes into peace. The locked doors of their frozen hearts are unlocked and they can breathe normally again. Jesus repeats, "Peace be with you."

Now beyond the level of human emotion, Jesus breathes on them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit." No longer simply a human interaction, the disciples receive the breath of God in the person of the Holy Spirit. Now their responses and perceptions are enlightened with the grace of the Holy Spirit. They become more than they were before. Within themselves they are no longer alone. The Holy Spirit dwells within them and their eyes and hearts are moved to a new level of awareness and belief. The Divine Spirit dwells within them participating with and directing the human spirit.

In the power of the Spirit, they are commissioned to be the presence of Christ in the world. They and each of us who have the same Spirit of God are called to forgive sins as we ourselves have been forgiven. The scene closes with the doubting Thomas who serves as an image of all who struggle with faith, needing some kind of firsthand evidence. Jesus allows his touch and lifts his doubt. Through Thomas, we are invited to surrender our doubts and believe.

This is Mercy Sunday. Mercy is love. Mercy is the divine love each of us has received through the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus. Mercy has several definitions. The reality is that mercy is a person. Jesus is the Divine Mercy. Only through the redeeming love of Jesus are we able to know the true meaning and effect of what mercy means: new life in God through Christ.

How do we find our way there? Like the first disciples love Jesus and believe in him. Ask for and allow yourself to be touched by the Holy Spirit. Live in that love. Invite Jesus into your upper room experiences when you are afraid, hiding behind emotional doors, feeling lost and alone. In those kinds of times the Holy Spirit can be most active. Go to your heart. Believe, trust, ask.

You can also find the Spirit in, with, through, and from those you love and those who love you. If hurts or loss are in the way, forgive. Ask Jesus in the Spirit to help. Take a deep breath and remember today's gospel.

Father John Esper

Liturgical Schedule

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm
in Chapel

Live Streaming of the Following:



Daily & Weekend Masses

Adoration on Tuesdays
8:45am 10:00am

Rosary on Thursdays
following 8:00am Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website

Contact Information

ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721
Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm,
Friday - 9:00am to Noon
Closed Saturday & Sunday

Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum
Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator
Matthew Zinser, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

248-542-8720 – call for appointment

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

For information on Baptisms, OCIA and
Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720



MONDAY, April 13, 2026

8:00am Mass: Don Bessler† req. by Marie Bessler

TUESDAY, April 14, 2026

8:00am Mass: For autistic children and their families

WEDNESDAY, April 15, 2026

8:00am Mass: Cevita Anna Vitello† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

THURSDAY, April 16, 2026

8:00am Mass: Kathleen Vertel† (13th R.A.) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

SATURDAY, April 18, 2026

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Jason Bertolini† req. by Tim & Nancy Oparka
For a successful job search for those seeking employment

Kathy Ann Campbell† req. by Kathy Stepinoski
Aro Gallerani†(5th R.A.) req. by Genevieve Gallerani
LouEllen McGrath† req. by Family

SUNDAY, April 19, 2026

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Joseph Dong Kim Pham req. by Family
Marty Karolski† req. by John & Bernie Turchin
Martin Daryl† req. by Family

Readings for the Week

April 12, 2026

- Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31
- Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8
- Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15
- Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21
- Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36
- Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15
- Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21
- Next Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2 and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

AOD RESTRUCTURING PLANS

For information or questions contact any person below or visit: restructuring.aod.org

Primary Person of Contact: Debbie Tourville

Key Parish Leaders:

Steve Orloski	Tom Karolski
Angie Maynard	Corrine McCarthy
Linda Collins	Judy McCown
Mike Kairis	Linda Yolkiewicz

AOD RESTRUCTURING LISTENING SESSIONS AT SVF

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Thursday, May 21, 2026

SIGN-UP TO ATTEND

Welcome to the Church

At the Easter Vigil Mass on April 4, 2026, our OCIA candidates and catechumens were initiated into the Catholic Church by Fr. John Esper. They received the following sacraments:

- Lindsay Porter:* Profession of Faith, Communion, Confirmation
- Pamela Smith:* Profession of Faith, Communion, Confirmation
- Grace Wegehaupt:* Profession of Faith, Communion, Confirmation
- Jacob Abels:* Baptism, Communion, Confirmation
- My Nguyen:* Baptism, Communion, Confirmation
- Khoi Nguyen:* Baptism, Communion, Confirmation
- Chellie St. Charles:* Baptism, Confirmation

We welcome them to our Catholic family. May they continue to grow in faith through the example of their sponsors, and may God continually bless them on their spiritual journeys.

Congratulations!



**Blood Drive
THIS TUESDAY**

**April 14, 2026
12-6pm**

Help Save Lives!

**Walk-ins are
welcome!**

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

“Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.’” (John 20:27)

In my early 20s, I volunteered at a parish youth group. I witnessed teens encountering Jesus with a fresh, romantic wonder that reminded me of my own teenage conversion. But something had changed in me. I was quietly jaded and cynical. When teens shared stories of encountering Christ, I'd want to sarcastically murmur, “Well, good for you.” I had grown suspicious of the zeal I once knew.

Then we brought the group on a pilgrimage. I was standing in an old church in France, ignoring a long-winded tour guide. I found myself before a crucifix. In that moment, I heard something, not audibly, but unmistakably in my heart: “I came to be your friend... and you wish to be my enemy? Why do you stand far from me? I suffer gladly for you. I was pierced for you. Why do you run from me?” My heart opened. I saw how cold and cynical I had become. But Jesus had not given up on me. He had returned, and his mercy broke through.

So I can relate to the scoffing — and transformation — of Thomas when the Risen Jesus presents his wounds for inspection. Thomas is not simply doubting; he is guarded, suspicious, even cynical. But Jesus comes to him. No lecture. Just understanding and mercy. He invites Thomas to touch his wounds. This burns away his cynicism like the morning mist.

— Father John Muir
©LPI



On Sunday, April 5, 2026 Reverend John Esper administered the Sacrament of Baptism to

Jorja Harper Bertolini

We welcome her into Christ's family.
May she grow strong in her faith.
May God bless our newly baptized and her family.

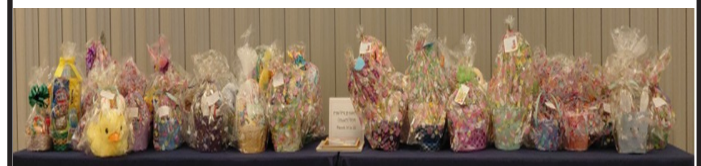
Thank You!

The following charities received monetary donations.

Deo Gratias Detroit	\$ 491.42
St. Raymond/OLGC Christian Service	625.00
Franciscan Outreach	726.00
SVF Benevolent Fund	988.90

Also, thirty-five filled Easter baskets were donated and delivered to the Oakland County Jail Outreach Ministry.

“Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”
Matt 25:40



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Question: In the immediate aftermath of Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the community of believers in Jerusalem experienced much joy and harmony. In what ways do you help build up your faith community?

2nd Reading: 1 Pt 1:3-9

Question: With Jesus' resurrection from the dead, Peter can now speak of an inheritance that awaits all believers and will one day be revealed to us. How should knowledge of this upcoming gift impact our living in the present moment?

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

Question: Thomas needed concrete evidence before he would believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. What convinces you that Jesus is risen and alive? ©LPi

Observances of the Week

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

Monday: St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr

Wednesday: Tax Day

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Easter ©LPi



...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding peaceful solutions to world wars and tensions.
 ...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, wars, floods, earthquakes and disasters.
 ...respect for life from conception to natural death
 ...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.
 ...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.
 ...all who are sick, homebound, undergoing or recovering from surgery, medical procedures, treatments or testing, and those who have made specific prayer requests.

Lord Jesus,

You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally. In their pain and brokenness, we ask that you bring them the comfort of your loving presence. In You, may they find strength for the day and hope for the journey. Amen

Dear Friends,

I can't begin to thank you for all the wonderful baby shower gifts you collected for our Wee Care little ones! (Wee Care is an outreach program of Right to Life—LIFESPAN, the oldest pro-life organization in southeastern Michigan.)



Everything was perfect! The sleepers and onesies were adorable! The tiny socks, bath towels and quilt were so cute and the diapers and bottles are always needed. The books, toys, mittens and bows and the little puppy costume were all so special. Our moms will love them!

And finally, thank you for the \$25.00. We will purchase some special formula for a preemie baby! I can't thank you enough for everything!

Because of you, we are able to provide for over 500 babies each year. Many little ones will have diapers tiny clothes, warm blankets and so much more as they are cuddled in their mother's arms. Whether the mom is in a homeless shelter, is a frightened teen mom or someone who is desperately struggling to provide for her little ones - you have made a difference! Each story is different, but every baby so very precious!

Our moms are always so touched that strangers care about them and are praying for them. Hope is a priceless gift that through your support, they are given.

God bless you for caring about our little ones. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Sincerely, Karen,
Wee Care Director

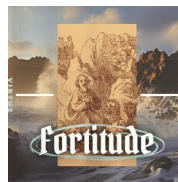


EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING

Tuesday, April 14 - 6:00pm - in church

Those interested in becoming part of this ministry are welcome to attend the meeting.



VIRTUES, EXPLAINED! CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH

FORTITUDE, Explained!

"When you go out to war against your enemies and you see horses and chariots and an army greater than your own, you shall not be afraid of them," we read in Deuteronomy 20:1. "For the Lord, your God...will be with you."

The virtue of fortitude actually requires, first and foremost, the feeling of fear. In order to grow in fortitude, one must face a thing which frightens him; in that way, it is distinct from patience and perseverance. Christ shows perfect fortitude as he endures his Passion and death, of which he was indeed afraid; it is likewise shown by martyrs. But fortitude doesn't require a cinematic battle. Fortitude can be shown by someone who is afraid of losing his job or of being in bodily danger simply for adhering to the laws of God. What is important is that the courage shown is *in pursuit of the good*, not just bearing with an attack.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

How does Christ prove himself to Thomas? Not by his face or his words, but by his wounds. So, when we look for God to show Himself in relief or in triumph, we must remember the wounds of Christ. This is where we find our salvation.

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**WHY DO WE DO THAT?
CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**

EASTER

Question: Why is the Easter season so long? And should we be doing something special for it?

Answer: You’ve probably noticed the priest continuing to wear white vestments at the Sunday liturgy. While we celebrated Christ’s resurrection several weeks ago, the Easter season extends fifty days — just over seven weeks — from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. For most of that time — about six weeks — Jesus is still with the disciples, teaching and encouraging them. The Easter season isn’t just a celebration of when Jesus is with us. At the Last Supper, Jesus promised to send an “advocate” or “counselor” when he left. At the Ascension, he directs the disciples to await “power from on high” — the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Ascension completes the Paschal Mystery, beginning with Jesus’ suffering and death and continuing in the resurrection. But the Holy Spirit ushers in a new era for the Church.

After spending weeks in prayer, fasting, and service during Lent, it may seem odd that we don’t widely have similar practices for Easter. That doesn’t mean you can’t embrace the season! Commit to taking moments of little joy throughout the weeks, like random acts of kindness towards others. Consider reading the Acts of the Apostles to learn more about the early Church or picking up an Easter devotional to pray with. He is still risen indeed!

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Women’s Sacred Journey

Saturday, April 18th at 9:00am

**FAITH FORMATION OFFICE
SVF SCHOOL BLDG.**



Women’s Sacred Journey group invites all women to join them in praying and reflecting on Scripture passages. The gathering is every other Saturday. No registration or fee required.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Hosted by:

Fr. Heary K of C Council

Where: St. Vincent Ferrer - Social Hall 28353 Herbert St. Madison Heights, MI 48071

When: April 17th – Registration starts @ 6:30pm

Entry Fee \$30.00 Cash per player – Cost covers one Food item & one Soft Drink Beverage item per player. Additional food and beverages available for purchase.

This is a Switch Format Cornhole tournament - No partner needed

1st Place Cash Prize!

2nd Place Cash Prize!

3rd Place Cash Prize!



There will be 50/50 drawings & gift basket raffles.

Please help make this a successful event for Fr. Heary K of C Council #7239 to support our 4 key principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity & Patriotism.

Questions regarding this Cornhole tournament – email Jill or Tony at uncensoredcornhole@gmail.com

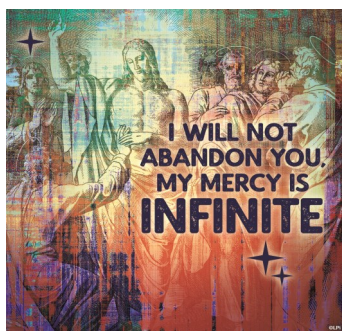
Sponsorships are welcome – Call 248-885-1847

Ministry Schedule

April 18/19, 2026

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	P Miles	T Karolski
Reader #1	M Kairis	D Gray
Reader #2	P Miles	T Karolski
EME	M Kairis	L Yolkiewicz
	J McCown	A Goll
	R Pasiak	D Gray
Greeters	R Juska-Svoba	M McLaughlin
	L Collins	T Oparka
	R Bertolini	N Oparka
	J Ballantine	D McLaughlin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of April 18/19, 2026
Bernie Turchin



WITHIN THY WOUNDS

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The prayer I love best in the world is the **Anima Christi**. This private, devotional litany of

supplication, begins with the phrase “*anima Christi, sanctifica me*” (“soul of Christ, sanctify me”) and continues on to appeal individually to each aspect of Our Lord’s crucified flesh: “*Body of Christ, save me; blood of Christ, inebriate me; water from Christ’s side, wash me; passion of Christ, strengthen me; Oh good Jesus, hear me.*”

Then comes my favorite part: “*within thy wounds hide me.*”

The Anima Christi is a prayer traditionally said after receiving Holy Communion. The ancient Celts spoke of *liminal places*, where the veil separating this world from the next is particularly thin, and I believe the moments immediately following the reception of Holy Communion, when the Host is dissolving on my tongue, create a liminal place. When I am in that place, I am as intimately connected to God as I can be while my heart is still beating.

And when I am there, holding God within me, what are the words that I speak? It’s overwhelming to think about. What could possibly be right to say?

There is no right or wrong answer, I suppose. But the best words I can think of are these: “Within thy wounds, Lord, hide me.”

There is a reason Christ showed his wounds as he said the words, “Peace be with you.” It was not just a means of identifying himself — it was a catechism lesson. *Here*, he was saying. *Here is the peace you will not find anywhere else.*

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A Program to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Are you constantly fighting? Or, do you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Does talking about it make it worse?

RETROUVAILLE CAN HELP!!

The Retrouvaille Program consists of a weekend experience combined with a series of twelve follow up (or Post) sessions over the course of six weeks. It provides the tools to help put your marriage in order again. The main emphasis of the program is on communication in marriage between husband and wife. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way.

There is an alternative to divorce!

This could be the best gift you ever give yourself, your spouse, your children, your family and your friends!!

Please pass this information on to anyone who you suspect might be a hurting couple

The next Retrouvaille program is May 1 to May 3.

For confidential information or to register call 800-470-2230 or visit our website: HelpOurMarriage.org

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: In Luke’s Gospel, how many lepers did Jesus heal, and how many returned to thank him?

©LPi

Answer: Ten were healed. One returned.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING MAR 28/29, 2026

Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	103		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 5,625.77	440.77	26,423.92
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	273.00	(199.00)	2,562.00
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	125.00	(1,548.00)	(25,874.05)
Bequests		80.00		3,247.00
Evangelical Charity—Franciscan Outreach		20.00		726.00
Evangelical Charity—SVF Benevolent Fund		239.20		845.20
AOD Collections:				
Easter		170.00		170.00

APRIL Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month.



The Effects of ABUSE

When a child is abused, the effects are grave and can last a lifetime. Some of the most common effects of abuse include:

- Loss of faith and trust in God.
- Post-traumatic stress disorder, psychological distress, and other indirect signs of trauma, such as anxiety, trouble sleeping, chronic stomach pain, and headaches.
- A greater risk of developing behavioral problems, substance abuse, and suicide.

The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt, and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place.

Steps to Prevent ABUSE

Communicate with Your Children

It is extremely important to communicate openly with your children. Let them know that they can talk to you about anything that bothers them. This will help you identify warning signs and grooming behaviors perpetrated by offenders before they escalate to abuse.

Educate Yourself and Your Children on Abuse

Learning how to identify, prevent, and report abuse is key. Parents and guardians should empower their children to protect themselves from harm and to report abuse. Ask your diocesan safe environment coordinator or parish delegate about opportunities for safe environment training.

Identify and Report Warning Signs of Child Abusers

Grooming behaviors are the actions abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts, while others allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, such as wrestling and tickling. Abusers also often try to isolate their victims from family or friends and encourage their victims to keep secrets from their parents or other caring adults.

Holding Offenders ACCOUNTABLE

To help hold offenders accountable, report all suspected abuse to local public authorities. You can also contact your local diocesan victim assistance coordinator to make a report and seek outreach for the abused.

In accordance with diocesan policy, when a single act of sexual abuse is admitted or established, the offender is to be removed permanently from ministry.



“Let it be clear that before these abominations the Church will spare no effort to do all that is necessary to bring to justice whosoever has committed such crimes . . . To those who abuse minors I would say this: convert and hand yourself over to human justice, and prepare for divine justice.”

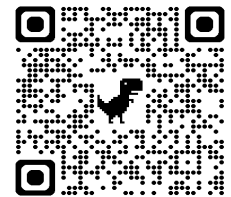
—Pope Francis, Dec. 21, 2018



We are called to deepen our devotion to the Eucharistic Lord, the source and summit of the Christian Life. On July 22nd, we have an opportunity to grow in faith and witness to this truth at the Rising from the Ashes Revival at Huntington Place in Detroit.

For more information on tickets, volunteering, or sponsorship, visit: risingrevival.org.

To support St. Vincent Ferrer with a financial contribution scan the QRcode below to connect to our tithe.ly giving site.



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Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240			
Offertory (Easter)	\$ 5,185.00	\$2,550.57	(2,634.43)	23,789.49
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	326.00	(146.00)	2,416.00
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	196.00	(1,477.00)	(27,351.05)
Bequests				3,247.00
Evangelical Charity: SVF Benevolent Fund		45.00		890.20
Easter		5,527.76		5,697.76
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,378.50				Paid 69,228.50

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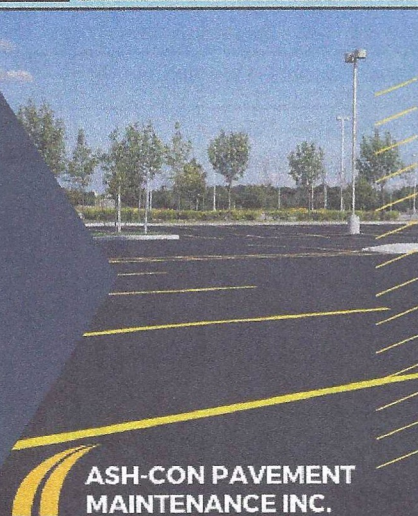


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